

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 301107

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: ADS - 1/15/77

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: CU/ARTS - STEVIE WONDER

1. BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL'S NORTH AMERICAN ZONAL COMMITTEE HAS ADVISED DEPARTMENT THAT STEVIE WONDER HAS AGREED PERFORM AT UPCOMING FESTIVAL IN LAGOS. ZONAL COMMITTEE PLANNING PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT DECEMBER 15 OR 16 TO THIS EFFECT.

2. WONDER HAS INFORMED COMMITTEE HE INTERESTED IN PERFORMING ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA FOLLOWING LAGOS (WHERE TENTATIVELY PLANS STAY FOR ONE WEEK BEGINNING ON/ ABOUT JANUARY 15).

3. DEPARTMENT SCHEDULED MEET WITH ZONAL COMMITTEE AND WONDER REPRESENTATIVE DECEMBER 15 DISCUSS TOUR POSSIBILITIES

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PAGE 02 STATE 301107

FOLLOWING LAGOS, GROUP'S REQUIREMENTS AND CO"TS.

4. ENTOURAGE EXPECTED NUMBER ABOUT SIXTY PEOPLE: WONDER'S BAND AND STAFF (30); AMERICAN PRESS CONTINGENT (5-10); FILM CREW (20) WHICH WOULD COVER TOUR FOR POSSIBLE TV SPECIAL. GROUP PROBABLY WILL TRAVEL BY CHARTER.

5. LOCAL SPONSOR WOULD PROVIDE ROOM, BOARD, INTERNAL TRAVEL AND RELATED COSTS PLUS PORTION BETWEEN COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION. TO EXTENT LOCAL SITUATION PERMITS, GROUP ALSO HOPES BE PAID REASONABLE PERFORMANCE FEE TO HELP MEET SALARIES AND OTHER OVERALL OPERATING EXPENSES.

6. WONDER ALSO HAS EXPRESSED SPECIFIC INTEREST IN MEETING HEADS OF STATE DURING VISITS.

7. NEED EMBASSY'S COMMENTS BY COB DECEMBER 14 ON DESIRABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF PROPOSED VISIT, INCLUDING READING OF LOCAL FUNDING POSSIBILITIES AND NUMBER CONCERTS DESIRED.

8. FOR LAGOS: ACCORDING ZONAL COMMITTEE, NIGERIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS TENTATIVELY AGREED PAY TRANSOCEANIC TRAVEL IF COMMITTEE UNABLE LOCATE AMERICAN SPONSOR WILLING UNDERWRITE THIS COST. EMBASSY REPORTEDLY REQUESTING CONCURRENCE FROM LAGOS. ROBINSON

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